

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2001/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100030021-2

CHANNELS

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY									
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DATE-TIME GROUP									
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SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1		4		7		10	
	2		5		8		11	
	3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCMAHIS,

STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION

CIA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO FOR MR JOHN YOE.

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 4

DATE: 7 MARCH 74

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN ARMY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ELECTION FRAUD

REF :



25X1A2g

EMB GUATEMALA 1308, 060020Z MAR 74, CONF

SEVERAL SOURCES REPORT A GROWING UNEASINESS IN THE GUATEMALAN ARMY OVER THE MASSIVE ELECTION FRAUD PERPETRATED BY THE GOVERNMENT. SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDERS REPORTEDLY ARE AWARE OF THE FRAUD AND ARE SPREADING THE WORD AMONG THE OFFICER CORPS. ONE GENERAL SAID JUNIOR OFFICERS IN PARTICULAR ARE PERTURBED BY THE SITUATION, AND THAT IF SERIOUS PUBLIC DISORDER SHOULD OCCUR, THE ARMY WOULD BE DIVIDED AND THE HIGH COMMANDERS WOULD BE INCAPABLE OF CONTROLLING THE MILITARY.

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State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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THE POSITION OF THE TOP GENERAL, DEFENSE MINISTER RUBIO, IS UNCLEAR. HE HAS SAID THAT THE MILITARY SHOULD GUARANTEE THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS, BUT IS KNOWN PRIVATELY TO SUPPORT THE DECISIONS OF PRESIDENT ARANA.

THE ARMY MAY BE FORCED TO ACT IF SERIOUS VIOLENCE SHOULD BREAK OUT. IN THIS EVENT, ONE POSSIBLE OUTCOME COULD BE A COUP DEPOSING ARANA, WHO CONSTITUTIONALLY REMAINS IN OFFICE UNTIL JULY 1, AND REPLACING HIM WITH A GENERAL WHO PROBABLY WOULD CONTINUE THE POLICIES OF THE PRESENT CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT.

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{SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: WH DIV}

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7 MAR 78

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